

b) Amend claim 13 as follows:

Claim 13 (once amended):

A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

a sheet of opaque flexible material having at least one first area and at least one second area; said first area being located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said application surface suffers no damage; and,

at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line being of such a shape and location that it substantially separates said at least one first area from said at least one second area and wherein said weakened tear line providing a low tear strength that directs an initial tear, started at the edge of said sticker, to propagate along its path by offering lower resistance to tear against an applied tear force[; and].

[at least one notched section, said notched section being located at an end of said weakened tear line for ease of initiating a tear along a line substantially coinciding with said at least one weakened tear line.]

(c) Amend claim 14 as follows:]

Claim 14 (once amended):

A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

a sheet of opaque flexible material having at least one first area and at least one second area; said first area being located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being

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substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said application surface suffers no damage; and,

at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line originates within said at least one first area and ends within said at least one second area and wherein said weakened tear line providing a low tear strength that directs an initial tear, started at either end of said weakened tear line, to propagate along the path of said weakened tear line by offering lower resistance to tear against an applied tear force.

[d) Amend claim 15 as follows:]

Claim 15 (once amended):

A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

a sheet of opaque flexible material having at least one first area and at least one second area; said first area being located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said application surface suffers no damage; and,

at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line is located, in its entirety, within said at least one second area and wherein said weakened tear line providing a low tear strength that directs an initial tear, started at either end of said weakened tear line, to propagate along the path of said weakened tear line path by offering lower resistance to tear against an applied tear force.

4. Examiner rejected claims 13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Haugwitz (4,961,811), stating:

"Haugwitz relates to an affixable-detectable paper sheet and hence, a temporary posting adhesive-coating sticker. The article comprises a sheet of paper, which is opaque, flexible material having a first and second area. The first one is partially coated with an adhesive coating and the second is substantially free from said adhesive coating. The paper is provided with a weakened tear line, such as cut scores or perforation across the sheet to facilitate removal. The cut score line or perforation would inherently provide for a notched section at the end points to facilitate tearing. As shown in the drawing, the weakened tear line separates the first area from the second area."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner. Haugwitz 4,961, 811 teaches the "limited or sparing use of the permanently bonding adhesives or glues", (column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 1) to "a first paper" which is "adhesively secured to a second paper" ----, "the first paper being removable substantially intact from second paper to which said first paper is securely attached by said adhesive", claim 1, emphasis added. Haugwitz's teaching requiring the use of "permanently bonding adhesives or glues" necessitates the limitation "wherein said single dot or line or plurality of adhesive dots or lines are protected by protecting means other than paper", claim 1, column 4, line 23 to line 25. Haugwitz further credits and explains: "the unexpected result obtained by the embodiments of the present invention is due to the limited or sparing use of the permanently bonding adhesives or glues", column 3 , line 60 to column 4, line 1.

In contrast, applicant teaches the use of an "adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said application surface suffers no damage" and so distinctly and accordingly limits all of his claims , please see claims 13, 14 and 15. As such, applicant's sticker, having a temporary adhesive coating, does not require the protection by "protecting means other than paper" as taught by Haugwitz. In fact, applicant's use of an adhesive of a temporary adhesion nature is what makes applicant's coated sticker applicable to and removable from any application surface,

including any paper surface. Also, applicant's use of "an adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature", as distinctly pointed out in all claims, makes it possible that "said application surface suffers no damage", please see claims 13, 14 and 15.

With regard to the limitation of "at least one notched section, said notched section being located at an end of said weakened tear line for ease of initiating a tear along a line substantially coinciding with said at least one weakened tear line" being rejected by Examiner, applicant has deleted this limitation in amended claim 13 and has canceled claims 16 and 17.

5. Examiner next rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Holmberg (4,590,109), stating

"Holmberg relates to paper sheet with reusable adhesive along an edge thereof and cut line provided in the adhesive area. The cut line facilitates removal of the sheet and is located, in its entirety, within one area. A notch is inherently provided at the end points of the cut line slit to assist tear origination.", emphasis added.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner. Holmberg teaches a cut line (not a weakened tear line) provided, in its entirety, in the adhesive area. In contrast, applicant's claim 15 relates to a weakened tear line (not a cut line) provided in its entirety in the second area (which is the adhesive free area). Furthermore, throughout his specification and drawings, Holmberg does not show nor suggest locating his cut line in the adhesive free area as taught by applicant.

Claim 17, referring to a "notched section" has been deleted.

6. Finally, Examiner rejected claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Holmberg (4,447,481), stating:

"Holmberg relates to paper sheet with a strip of reusable adhesive and at one line of perforations that traverses both the adhesive section and the adhesive free section as shown in figure 5. The provision of a notch at the end points of the tear line is inherent thereof to provide for a starting point of tear."

Again, applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner. Holmberg 4,447,481 teaches forming a recess in the marginal edge portion of a

paper sheet, coating the recessed area with a layer of non-drying pressure sensitive adhesive and applying a protective strip to the layer of adhesive in the recessed area. Holmberg 4,447,481 also teaches manufacturing the multi-layer recessed paper sheet in multiple width and length and cutting it (not providing a weakened tear line), to the "desired dimensions" as it states: "sheets 10a of the desired dimensions are ultimately produced by cutting the larger double width sheet 10 along the dotted line 24 down the center line of the recess 12 with the adhesive 14 and protective strip 16 applied in the recess. This bisects the protective strip 16 into two strip portions 16a which will then form the adhesive edge 10b of the smaller sheets 10a after the two bisected sheets are cut along the transverse lines 25 illustrated in FIG 5.", column 2, line 16 to line 25 and Figure 5, emphasis added. In fact, a thorough review of Holmberg's specification does not yield any teaching or reference to any type of weakened tear line. By recessing the marginal edge of the paper sheet and placing a thin protective strip thereon, Holmberg's invention "permits a sheet of paper having uniform thickness throughout its entire surface area to be provided which can be processed with conventional equipment after the adhesive and protective covering strip has been applied thereto, ", column 3, line 1 to line 5.

In contrast, applicant's postable sticker does not have a recessed area coated with pressure sensitive adhesive nor a protective strip that compensates for the reduced sheet thickness in the recessed area. Furthermore, applicant's amendment of claim 14 providing for "said first area being located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being-----" clearly distinguishes applicant's invention from Holmberg's Figure 5 even if dotted line 25, in Holmberg's FIG 5, were to be viewed as a weakened tear line. Also, as originally filed and as amended, claim 14 does not include the provision of a notch at the end points of the tear line.

Claim 16, referring to a "notched section" has been deleted.

7. The limitation of "said second area being substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a memo writing space" added to amended claims 13, 14 and 15 is clearly shown in applicant's drawings and is made in order to make claims 13, 14 and 15 consistent with claims 1, 2 and 3 in a co-pending PCT application filed on same invention, please see attached copy of page 10 and 11 of PCT application.

7. In view of the cancellation of claims 16 and 17, the above amendments made in claims 13, 14 and 15 and the above presented arguments, applicant respectfully petitions that Examiner reconsiders his rejection of claims 13, 14 and 15. Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 13, 14 and 15 are now believed to be allowable and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

7. If there remain any matters that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call applicant to resolve such matters.

Respectfully,



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1 What is claimed is:

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3 Claim 1:

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5 A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being
6 temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

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8 a sheet of opaque flexible material (7) having at least one first
9 area (8) and at least one second area (9); said first area being
10 located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least
11 partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being
12 substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a
13 memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary
14 adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and
15 subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive
16 coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said
17 application surface suffers no damage; and,

18 at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group
19 consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and
20 microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line being of
21 such a shape and location that it substantially separates said at
22 least one first area from said at least one second area and wherein
23 said weakened tear line providing a low tear strength that directs
24 an initial tear, started at the edge of said sticker, to propagate
25 along its path by offering lower resistance to tear against an
26 applied tear force.

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28 Claim 2:

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30 A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being
31 temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

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33 a sheet of opaque flexible material (7) having at least one first
34 area (8) and at least one second area (9); said first area being
35 located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least
36 partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being
37 substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a
38 memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary
39 adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and
40 subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive
41 coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said
42 application surface suffers no damage; and,

1 at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group
2 consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and
3 microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line originates
4 within said at least one first area and ends within said at least one
5 second area and wherein said weakened tear line providing a low
6 tear strength that directs an initial tear, started at either end of
7 said weakened tear line, to propagate along the path of said
8 weakened tear line by offering lower resistance to tear against an
9 applied tear force.

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11 Claim 3:

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13 A temporary posting adhesive-coated sticker capable of being
14 temporarily attached to an application surface, comprising:

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16 a sheet of opaque flexible material (7) having at least one first
17 area (8) and at least one second area (9); said first area being
18 located adjacent to an edge of said sticker and being at least
19 partially coated with an adhesive coating; said second area being
20 substantially free from said adhesive coating and providing a
21 memo writing space; said adhesive coating being of a temporary
22 adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and
23 subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive
24 coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said
25 application surface suffers no damage; and,

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27 at least one weakened tear line, selected from the group
28 consisting of pre-slit cut lines, perforated lines and
29 microperforated lines, wherein said weakened tear line is located,
30 in its entirety, within said at least one second area and
31 wherein said weakened tear line providing a low tear strength
32 that directs an initial tear, started at either end of said weakened
33 tear line, to propagate along the path of said weakened tear line
34 path by offering lower resistance to tear against an applied tear
35 force.